

Headline	Blow to Sukma hope as six are dropped		
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Blow to Sukma hope as six are dropped

GL Oh

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah golfers' chances of winning medals in the Kuching Sukma 2016 took a huge blow with the recent dropping of six players from the squad and the withdrawal of Pahang Sukma champion Albright Chong, and the relevant parties must come clean on their decision to exclude the six so early in the programme.

Duncan Moodie, appointed by Sabah Sports Council as the Sukma coach, had officially informed Casper Loh, Eldrick Chong, Charlayne Chong, Dayangku Nur Wafiqah, Darren Kong and Henry Lim through Sabah Golf Association (SGA) late last month that they are no longer in the team in preparation for the games scheduled in Kuching next year.

It is understood that the boys team now consists of Jordan Mobijohn, Fazley Chua, Suzairi Iqmah, Christopher James with Tham Soo Yuet, Jackie Glen Nickel, Chew I Youn and Celeste Lo still in the girls squad.

There is a big question mark over the decision to drop the players, especially with the exclusion of current MSSM West Coast and MSSM Sabah champion Casper Loh, who had beaten Suzairi twice in the two meets and even shot under-par gross on the final day at the Dalit Golf Club, and at the recent Sutera Amateur Open, he also finished fourth with a one-under 71 on the final day, the only golfer to achieve that.

Casper is currently competing in the junior golf championships in San Diego, United States and the decision to drop a player currently in form does not make sense and at the same time it puzzled

many why Fazley Chua, who may have won a team gold in Pahang three years ago, is still with the team at the expense of Casper as he had hardly played in any tournament at all since the last Sukma in Perlis.

Another player dropped, Eldrick has also done well this year with a fourth placing at the recent MSSM national championship held at Bukit Jawi, Penang and was selected to be in the Malaysian Schools squad together with Christopher for the Asean Schools Championship.

As for the girls, to drop two players in a limited squad further question the logic behind the moves, in particular MGA Junior squad player Charlayne who is currently ranked 17th on the order of merit in MGA chart and who had made it to the final round at the recent Sabah Amateur Open where as Chew I Youn did not even make the cut at the same meet and is not on the list of the order of merit in MGA chart either.

With almost a year before the games starts, there is no need to trim down the squad so early. There should be enough players to continue in the programme just in case there is a drop in form and injuries

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to any of the players before the final decision, and also to create healthy competition among them, unless there is not enough money to cater for the extra players by the ministry or the coach had already made up his mind for his ideal final

squad.

Meanwhile, Albright submitted his resignation from the squad to SGA on June 25 and he will be joining University Utara Malaysia (UUM) to further his studies later this year

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Casper Loh: In good form but axed.